

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett et al. (U.S. 5,034,736). Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice, and the subject matter thereof incorporated into independent claim 1, and therefore Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as being now moot with respect to independent claim 1. Similarly, claim 3 depends from independent claim 1, and therefore the rejection should be moot for the same reasons.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imamura (U.S. 6,091,392). With respect to claims 1 and 3, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for reasons similar to those above with respect to the Bennett reference. With respect to claims 5 and 6, Applicants traverse this rejection for similar reasons. Independent claim 5 has been amended herein to recite subject matter similar to that previously submitted in dependent claim 2, and claim 6 depends from independent claim 5.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett or Imamura, in view of Masuda et al. (U.S. 5,801,672). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to either rejection of independent claim 1. Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of the base claim, plus additional features.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett or Imamura, in view of Maekawa et al. (U.S. 5,686,936). This rejection is now moot with respect to claim 2, which has been cancelled herein. However, with respect to

independent claim 1, which incorporates the subject matter of claim 2, and with respect to independent claim 5, which incorporates subject matter similar to that previously recited in claim 2, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither of the proposed combinations of prior art references teaches or suggests the present invention.

The Examiner correctly recognizes that neither Bennett nor Imamura discloses that a plurality of driving devices are disposed on the same side of the display signal lines. The Examiner cites only Maekawa for teaching a plurality of driving devices (2, 5) on a same side of the display signal lines, and cites Fig. 1, and col. 4, lines 46-50, as support for this assertion. These portions of the Maekawa reference though, fail to support either combination of references as proposed by the Examiner.

Maekawa does suggest that the H driver 2 and the P driver 5 may be integrated on the same side of the signal line Y in a nonpreferred embodiment, however, Maekawa does not teach that the H driver and the P driver provide the same types of signals to the data signal lines. In fact, Maekawa teaches the opposite. Maekawa expressly states that the H driver 2 “supplies video signals” (col. 3, lines 66-67), while the P driver 5 is a control means for “supplying the precharging signal to the same signal lines Y” (col. 4, lines 23-27). In other words, irrespective of the location of the two different drivers in Maekawa, Maekawa does not teach or suggest that the two drivers drive the data lines together for the same image display data.

In contrast, the present invention, as amended, features that each data line is driven by using a plurality of driving devices together (claim 1), or by supplying a plurality of

sets of same image display data (claim 5), simultaneously so as to increase the driving capability. Maekawa fails to teach or suggest these features. The respective purposes and functions of the H and P drivers in Maekawa are different, and therefore Maekawa teaches away from using the two devices together simultaneously to increase the driving capability. The driving capability of Maekawa's device will not be increased because the H and P drivers do not supply the same signal. The increase in the driving capability of the present invention is a feature positively recited in both independent claims, and one not taught or suggested by the proposed combination based in part on the Maekawa reference. Accordingly, the outstanding Section 103 rejection is respectfully traversed for at least these reasons.

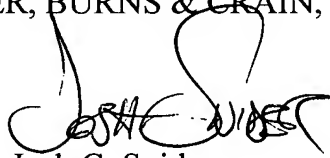
Moreover, Applicants submit that it could not be obvious to combine Maekawa with either of the other cited references to reach the present invention because the two drivers featured by Maekawa do not function the same as the plurality of driving devices of the present invention, and even those described in the other references as well. Accordingly, because no reasonable explanation has been provided for how to combine these non-analogous art references together, nor has any motivation been cited from within the references themselves for the proposed combination, Applicants submit that the Section 103 rejection based in part on the Maekawa reference is further deficient, and should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1 and 3-6, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh C. Snider", is written over the printed name.

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